

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5720

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UNCLAS OTTAWA 0641

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CA

SUBJECT: GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE

DOT PASS UNDERSECRETARY BARNUM AND DR. TRILLING

REF: O'CONNOR-TRILLING TELECON FEBRUARY 24.

TRANSMITTED HERewith IS THE VERBATIM TEXT OF TWO
PARAGRAPHS DEALING WITH GREAT LAKES ISSUES FROM
MY SPEECH TO THE CANADIAN IMPORTERS' ASSOCIATION
AT TORONTO ON FEBRUARY 19:

BEGIN VERBATIM TEXT: I DON'T BELIEVE I SHOULD
COME TO THIS KEY CANADIAN CITY IN THE GREAT LAKES
REGION WITHOUT AN EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT THE
TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE ON THE LAKES AND
THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY, ESPECIALLY MOVEMENTS OF
GENERAL CARGO. THOSE TRENDS ARE DISTURBING FOR THEY
INDICATE A FALLING LEVEL OF COMMERCE AND A DISCERNIBLE
TENDENCY BY MANUFACTURERS AND SHIPPERS ALIKE TO
DIMINISH THE USE OF THESE WATERWAYS IN FAVOR OF
OTHER ROUTES FOR TRANSPORTING GOODS. THIS SITUATION
WAS REFLECTED LAST YEAR IN THE TONNAGE FIGURES FOR
GENERAL CARGO MOVING ON THE SECTION OF THE SEAWAY
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BETWEEN MONTREAL AND LAKE ONTARIO WHICH, AT 4.5

MILLION TONS, WERE 1.3 MILLION TONS LESS THAN IN THE PRECEDING YEAR, WHICH IN TURN REFLECTED A DROPPING LEVEL OF ACTIVITY.

AS YOUR KNOW, UNITED STATES COMMERCE GENERATES APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT OF THE WATERBORNE GENERAL CARGO ACTIVITY IN THIS REGION. WE THINK THIS FACT SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE DIVISION OF PILOTAGE REVENUES, AND TO THAT END WE HAVE MADE WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE A VERY RESONABLE PROPOSAL FOR THE DIVISION OF REVENUES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CANADIAN PILOTS' ORGANIZATIONS. ANOTHER ADJUSTMENT SHOULD ENSURE THAT OUR SEABORNE COMMERCE CAN MOVE WITHOUT HINDERANCE THROUGH THE LAKES AND WATERWAYS. THIS HAS NOT BEEN HAPPENING. IT IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE LOSS OF COMMERCE AND REVENUE ON THE LAKES AND THE SEAWAY, BECAUSE SHIPPING COMPANIES ARE UNABLE TO PLAN THE MOVEMENTS OF THEIR VESSELS WITH AN ACCEPTABLE DEGREE OF CERTAINTY. THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE SETTLED OR THE WHOLE REGION MAY BE DAMAGED. END VERBATIM TEXT. PORTER

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